

POLAND

FOIAb3b

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY COOPERATION WITH CIA

Following is a translation of an article by Zygmunt Broniarek in the Polish-language daily Trybuna Ludu (The People's Tribune), 24 January 1968, p 8.

CPYRGHT

About two years ago, Serge Lang, New York's Columbia University mathematics professor learned by chance of secret activities performed by the University for "U.S. Government agencies". He approached Warren Goodell, director of Scientific Works and External Funds Bureau requesting explanation. Goodell answered with unusual caution:

- There is no scientific task secret to Columbia University.
- Lang: "What makes you choose your words so carefully? Is there anything else hidden underneath that?"
- Goodell: "I have no right to answer this question"
- Lang: "But all this is in connection with Electronics Research Laboratory, Hudson Laboratory, and the School of International Affairs"
- Goodell: "I have no right to answer this"
- Lang: "Does it have anything in common with the CIA?"
- Goodell: "I have no right to answer this"

The dialogue continues

Thanks to Professor Lang's efforts and to those of the SDS (Students for Democratic Society), a leftist, radical organization active in the movement protesting the war in Vietnam - it was discovered last fall that since 1961, the Columbia University School of International Affairs,

CPYRGHT

already mentioned, has been conducting research into the financial and economic systems of popular democracy countries and of the Soviet Union. This was ordered and paid for by the CIA. At a press conference held on 16 October 1967, Paul Rockwell, former SDS chairman disclosed that:

a) Dr. Thad P. Alton, a person remaining in connection with the School of International Affairs even though not officially listed as its employee headed the group performing the relevant tasks;

b) the group was paid \$ 125,000 p. a. by the CIA.

The SDS press conference made a deep impression at the University. In its 17 October issue, the students' "Daily Columbia Spectator" published an open letter addressed to Dr. Grayson Kirk, Rector (President) of the University. In the letter, the Independent Alumni Association stated that:

"In the recent years, a tendency to become subordinated to the needs and policies of U.S. military establishment has made its appearance at Columbia. According to your own statements, Columbia University has been undertaking secret military research for the Department of Defense. Since 1961, Columbia University has been performing secret research for the Central Intelligence Agency. You have granted permission for military laboratories to open at Columbia - e.g. the Electronics Research Laboratory and the Hudson Laboratory - where there are no lectures whatsoever. You are yourself representing Columbia University on the IDA (Institute of Defense Analyses) executive committee. The Institute is an agency conducting millions of dollars worth of secret military research for the Department of Defense. In 1960, under your own administration, Columbia has become an institutional IDA member, and then you gave permission for University equipment to be used for secret IDA purposes"

At the time the letter was addressed to Dr. Kirk, the SDS approached Andrew W. Cordier, Dean of the School of International Affairs, former Deputy UN Secretary-General, asking him whether it was true that the School was carrying out CIA orders. Cordier confirmed this in a special Columbia University statement to the effect that: "University employees had no right to disclose CIA research financing sources"(i. e. of the research concerning East Europe). Cordier added that it was not until May 1967 that he learned from Dr. Alton about the CIA funds.

More interesting however is Cordier's announcement that the School of International Affairs would continue using CIA funds. The only "explanation" he contributed was that the matter of the receipt and use of such funds was being "independently" handled by Dr. Alton, and that the research into East European finance systems was just under "light supervision" by the School of International Affairs.

A method of choice

Here, there are certain structural aspects that call for special explanation, in particular against the background of American propaganda trends, endeavoring to make light of the connections of Columbia University - and not of Columbia alone - with the CIA. Most frequently, it is said that there is nothing wrong with the research conducted for the CIA; that this is purely economic research (see Columbia's immediate partner - the CIA Economic Research Bureau); that, finally, research results are published in books accessible to anyone or in professional papers, and so all the charges of secrecy and intelligence work are groundless.

~~can be seen in their true light. acquire a healthy tone.~~ It is only when the true facts are well-known that these statements are true. It is true that Dr. Alton had been entrusted with research by the CIA Economic Research Bureau but it is just as true that precisely the Bureau - in the words of the official Columbia University communiqué - "is the focus of all economic research into East European countries as conducted by U.S. Government"

Precisely this Bureau - several years ago - joined in overt anti-Soviet propaganda, publishing data aimed at disparaging the Soviet economic achievements in the eyes of the public opinion. And as for the publication of Dr. Alton's research results? Yes, it's true - among others, a report titled "The Polish GNP, 1954 through 1956" has been published. The preparations for such publication were even more interesting: When entrusting anyone with "scientific-research" work, the CIA reserves the rights to all information gathered in the course of such activities; and to all, even the most "undigested" notes. Then, it arbitrarily decides what is to be published.

\*

The indignation of Columbia students and of certain faculty members at this cooperation with the CIA is due to their knowledge of the part played by the Agency: It is one not of an "information gatherer" alone but that of a center of subversion directed against various countries, initiator and performer of coups d'État, destroyer of democratic systems etc.

N. B., Paul Rockwell, the spokesman for the SDS reminded Rector Dr. Kirk that he had himself enjoyed material advantages brought by CIA activities: In 1953, the CIA tumbled the Mossadegh Government of Iran. As an immediate result, the position improved of five international oil companies, including Socony Mobil. Dr. Kirk is among the members of Socony Mobil board of trustees.

At Rockwell's press conference, a newsman voiced his surprise at Rockwell's seeing anything wrong with research being financed by the CIA. "Was it not valuable research?" asked he.

Rockwell answered: "Research may be conducted into furnace production. Furnaces are useful. But if such research is conducted in the IIIrd Reich, it should be opposed. This is why CIA-financed research should be opposed"

5174

CSO: 2600-D

- END -

- 19 -